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It is worthy of note that when cyclones and heavy rains occur in the early part of the year large numbers of rodents are destroyed.

In 1903 none of those meteorological phenomena occurred, which prevent the almost unlimited reproduction of rodents. These vermin find a medium suitable to their development in the ill-constructed, neglected, and unhealthy houses in which the greater part of the people are lodged, and the deplorable familiarity in which human beings live with the lowest animals, a familiarity favored by social prejudices which are not confined to the ignorant classes, contributes to the propagation of the disease existing among rats. Many persons who have suffered from these conditions have consented to apply for measures of disinfection and have abandoned their houses as soon as dead rats have been found on the premises.

PANAMA.

Reports from Colon—Mortuary statistics—Summary of yellow fever cases in Panama since November 1, 1904—Vessels cleared for ports in the United States—Smallpox on steamship Loa from Peruvian ports and on steamship Westphalia from St. Thomas—Additional cases of yellow fever.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Mohr reports, December 21 and 27 and January 2 and 3, as follows:

During the week ended December 19, 1904, 4 deaths were officially reported, as follows: December 15, 1 Jamaican, rheumatism, 1 Venezuelan, tuberculosis (died in Colon hospital); December 16, 1 Panaman, dropsy; December 19, 1 Panaman, chronic enteritis.

I have been officially informed by the chief quarantine officer that the following cases of yellow fever have been reported in the city of Panama since November 1, 1904: One case on November 21, an Italian, recovered; 1 case on December 5, Spaniard, recovered; 1 case on December 8, Canadian, convalescent in hospital; 1 case on December 11, Scotchman, still in hospital.

These patients were all residents of Panama and were promptly isolated in the hospital at Ancon.

No cases have been discovered in the city of Colon since the 1 case which was reported on November 9, 1904.

During the week ended December 24, 1904, the following vessels have cleared for ports in the United States, and have been granted bills of health:

American steamship *Allianca* for New York, December 21, with 66 crew and 45 passengers.

U. S. S. *Yankee* for Hampton Roads, December 22, with 338 officers and men and 377 marines.

British steamship *Dictator* for New Orleans, December 23, via Mexican ports, with 38 crew and 2 passengers.

Norwegian steamship *Preston* for New Orleans, via Limon, December 24, with 32 crew and 13 passengers.

The steamship *Loa*, of the Compañía Sud Americana de Vapores, developed 2 cases of smallpox on the voyage from Arequipa, Peru, to Panama. One of these cases was removed from the ship at Callao, and the other was isolated aboard ship on December 13, and removed from the ship at Panama on December 21. All necessary precautions were taken, the passengers being vaccinated at Callao and again at

Panama before disembarking. Five passengers in transit for the United States and other foreign ports were refused passage by the Panama Railroad Steamship Company, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and the United Fruit Company Line. The United Fruit Company Line also refused to take 80 members of the opera troupe, among whom the disease appeared on the *Loa* to Limon. These people are being held under observation here, and should no disease break out among them those who so desire will be granted passage by the Panama Railroad steamer which sails on the 28th instant. The opera troupe referred to will take a ship from here to Veracruz, Mexico.

MORTUARY STATISTICS.

During the week ended December 24, 1904, 6 deaths have been officially reported as follows: 1 Panaman, stomach trouble; 1 Jamaican, pneumonia; 1 Jamaican, lobar pneumonia (died in Colon Hospital); 1 Colombian, phthisis pulmonalis; 1 Panaman, epilepsy; 1 West Indian, arterio-sclerosis.

Except the case of smallpox, which was removed from the steamship *Loa* on December 21, no cases of quarantinable disease have been reported either in Panama or Colon.

During the week ended December 31, 1904, the following vessels have been cleared for ports in the United States and have been granted bills of health:

American steamship *Advance*, for New York, December 28, with 61 crew and 28 passengers.

British schooner *Cartagena*, for New York via San Blas coast, December 29, with 8 crew and no passengers.

British steamship *Nicaraguan*, for New Orleans via Jamaica and Mexican ports, December 29, with 46 crew and 30 passengers.

American steamship *Orizaba*, for New York, December 30, with 60 crew and 11 passengers.

German steamship *Boundbrook*, for New Orleans via Bocas del Toro, December 30, with 31 crew and 2 passengers.

During the week ended December 31, 1904, there have been 5 deaths officially reported as follows:

December 28, 1 Jamaican, female, 27 years, malaria; 1 Panaman, female, 3 months, diarrhea. December 30, 1 Panaman, female, 15 years, burns; 1 Jamaican, female, 37 years, fever; 1 Chinese, male, 24 years, fever.

The total number of deaths officially reported during the month of December was 34, which in a population officially estimated at 8,000 would give an annual death rate of 51 per thousand.

On December 31 a case of smallpox was discovered by the quarantine officer on board the German steamship *Westphalia* in the person of a negro laborer who had shipped twelve days before at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, at which place the disease was undoubtedly contracted. The case was promptly removed from the ship and isolated. The necessary disinfection was done and all unprotected persons on the vessel were vaccinated.

Since my last report, dated December 27, 1904, I have been officially informed that 3 more cases of yellow fever have been reported in the city of Panama—one case on December 30 and 2 cases on January 1. One of the latter cases has terminated fatally.